THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA
21 DUNDAS SQUARE TORONTO, ONTARIO

The NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. 19, NO. 3 MAY, 1944

Y.M.C.A. 1844 -- CENTENNIAL -- 1944

The National Centennial Planning Committee which is under the chairmanship of Col. Gerald W. Birks of Montreal, and includes in its membership, all the members of the National Council resident in Montreal, has announced the special events for the Centennial Observance, and Annual Meeting of the National Council to be held in Montreal, June 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The programme will open on Saturday, June 3rd at 9.45 a.m. in the Windsor Hotel, with the presidential address by L. E. Shaw of Halifax.

Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock there will be a civic reception at the Chalet at the top of Mount Royal for out-of-town delegates and members of the Board of the Montreal Association.

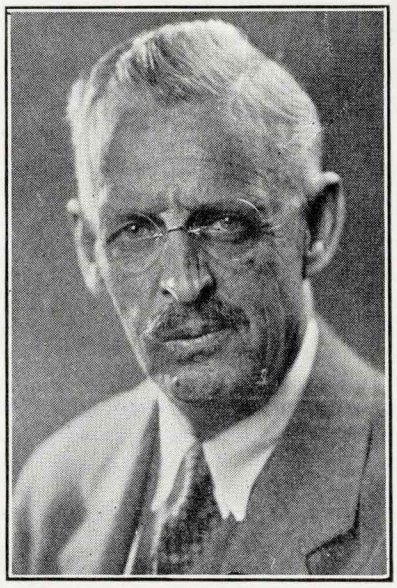
Sunday morning at 8 o'clock under the leadership of Dr. T. W. Jones, there will be a special communion service in the Chapel of the Central Branch Y.M.C.A. At 11 o'clock in Christ Church Cathedral, Dr. John R. Mott, whose name will live long in Y.M.C.A. history, will preach the sermon at the special Centennial service which is being arranged by Bishop John Dixon and Dean Evans. Many of the delegates will be guests in Montreal homes for Sunday dinner, and it is expected that they may be able to listen in on the broadcast of the special Centennial service being held in London, England, St. Paul's Cathedral, when the Archbishop of Canterbury will preach.

Monday's session will be featured by the report on Canadian Y.M.C.A. War Services by the Chairman, James Y. Murdoch, K.C.

Monday evening, the World Service Dinner will be addressed by Tracy Strong of the Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners' Aid, Dr. Wilson M. Hume, formerly of North India, and Lee M. Terrill of the Jerusalem Y.M.C.A. Later in the evening, there will be a special Centennial bonfire program at the Notre Dame de Grace Y.M.C.A.

The main events of the entire National Centennial observance will be the Centennial banquet on Tuesday evening, June 6th, when His Excellency, The Right Honorable The Earl of Athlone, K.G., Governor General of Canada will be the special guest, and the other speaker will be Dr. James S. Thompson, President of the University of Saskatchewan, and former General Manager of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Plans "Y" Centennial



Col. Gerald W. Birks

The Centennial Planning Committee under Col. Birks has made wide and interesting plans for the observance of this historic occasion.

Across Canada

Colorful Centennial Celebration in Y.M.C.A.'s from coast to coast are well underway.

From Saint John, N.B., where 12 days of festivities were held in April, comes the word that "every gathering was a great success, and there is no doubt about it that Saint John knows the Y.M.C.A. is in existence and is 100 years old.

"I hope every Association in the country will take advantage of this special time," writes A. M. Gregg, General Secretary, "as I know that all of us feel it was tremendously worthwhile."

The Association at Midland has under way a Centennial Campaign to raise $12,000 for the rehabilitation of Camp Kitchikewana. Renovation will not begin until after the war, and until then the money will be invested in Victory Bonds.

The Edmonton association is stressing the fact that all of 1944 is Centennial year, but while it will have some colorful events in May and early June, it plans for special observances through all departments in the early fall and in their case, the plan also is to have the service clubs mark the Centennial in October about the time of Founder's Day, October 11th.

At Ottawa, local Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs will stage Y.M.C.A. Centennial birthday parties during the week of June 4th. During the same week, the Charlottetown Association will open its

National Council Annual Meeting and Centennial Observance, Montreal, June 3, 4, 5, 6, 1944

Centennial Campaign to raise $75,000 for a new building. The present building, erected in 1872, was the first building built in British North America for the exclusive use of the Y.M.C.A.

For years the Winnipeg Association struggled under a heavy debt amounting to $125,000. As a feature of its Centennial observance, this association has already paid for its second mortgage of $52,000, and at the time of going to press, an additional amount of $35,000 to be applied on the first mortgage.

These six associations mentioned are typical of what is happening in many Y.M.C.A. centres right across Canada, and more will be heard of this at a later date.

In France

Despite great difficulty and distress, the Y.M.C.A. in Southern France has planned a number of important Centennial ceremonies.

Two groups, each composed of five or six members, have been appointed by the National Committee to visit rural Associations in an attempt to interest the masses in the work of the Y.M.C.A. During each visit there will be an evening ceremony, similar to the well-known camp-fire ceremony. A play depicting scenes from the life of George Williams as well as an evangelistic message will be included in the program.

When these visits have been completed, both groups will go to the newly-equipped National Y.M.CA. Camp at Le Chambonsur-Lignon. At the close of camp they will visit the villages of the surrounding countryside.

Centennial celebrations will also be held by local Associations with special emphasis on the evangelization of youth.

THE NEWS BULLETIN
Published by
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA
21 DUNDAS SQ. - TORONTO
L. E. SHAW, *President*
HAROLD R. FROST, K.C.,
Chairman, Executive Committee
R. S. HOSKING, *General Secretary*

Centennial in the British Isles

Quietly amidst falling bombs, effectively amidst a wide spread service to His Majesty's Armed Forces, confidently amidst uncertainty, the English and Scottish National Councils of the Young Men's Christian Associations are preparing for the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the London Young Men's Christian Associations. The significance of this event is recognized by Church and Government leaders throughout the Empire and the world. In God's providence there will be held in Saint Paul's Cathedral on Sunday evening June 4 from 8 - 8.40 a commemoration of the occasion where George Williams on June 6th, 1844, met in St. Paul's Church-yard with some of his Christian fellows for prayer and organized The Young Men's Christian Association. The Archbishop of Canterbury will preach.

It is felt that this service in St. Paul's will have a deep spiritual significance for the whole association movement, and it is a source of real satisfaction for the Young Men's Christian Association on the occasion of its Centennial observance to receive this warm tribute of respect.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has always held the Young Men's Christian Association in high esteem, and recently in an address he said, "The two great associations, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. achieved a reality of world-wide fellowship, while others new it was wanted but could not find it."

If transportation facilities permit there will be a special conference of Association leaders from all parts of Great Britain and from members of nations represented in Great Britain. In certain provincial centres simultaneous gatherings will be held on Sunday in the Y.M.C.A.s and Churches.

It is expected that the Churches throughout the land will make fitting reference to the hundred years' service of the Young Men's Christian Associations.

These plans are made in the midst of a war and in lieu of other plans initiated at the World Conference in Mysore, India, in January, 1937, when it was agreed that the next world's conference of the Y.M.C.A. would be held in London at which time a great demonstration of the world wide fellowship and program of the Y.M.C.A. would be held.

In U.S.A.

Widespread activities throughout the United States in thousands of local Associations with June 4th set aside as "Y.M.C.A. Sunday" and June 6th as a "Second Century Day" will mark the 100th birthday of the Y.M.C.A. in that country.

On June 9th, 10th and 11th, at least 100 selected Y.M.C.A. workers will meet in Buffalo to plan suitable programs for the Y.M.C.A. as it enters its second century of usefulness. National magazines will carry articles on Y.M.C.A. work and nation-wide radio programs will include Y.M.C.A. features.

On the Air

Powerful beams of radio will carry the theme of the Y.M.C.A. Centennal Observance into the homes of practically every citizen of Canada.

Through the courtesy of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, a special tribute to the Y.M.C.A. has been written by J. Frank Willis, and will be broadcast over a nation-wide network on Wednesday, May 31st, 9 to 9.30 p.m. E.S.T.

Tribute to the war services of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. will be paid in a special broadcast of "Comrades in Arms," on Sunday, June 4, 5.30 to 6 p.m. E.S.T., also over the C.B.C.

On Monday, June 5, during the "Canadian Round-up" program, one of the featurettes will come from Montreal and will have a Y.M.C.A. Centennial flavor. The hour is 10.15 to 10.30 p.m. E.S.T.

Arrangements are still going forward in the hope that a broadcast from London, England, featuring the Centennial services in St. Paul's led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, may be beamed to Canada. No definite information is available at the time of going to press.

The private radio stations of Canada, through the kindness of Glen Bannerman, general manager of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, are also co-operating in making known the history, the present work and the hopes of the Canadian Y.M.C.A.

In addition to radio plans, feature articles are being published in several national magazines. Editorials and news stories will appear in hundreds of newspapers.

TRIBUTES TO THE "Y"

From the Navy

Vice-Admiral Percy W. Nelles, C.B., R.C.N.
Senior Canadian Flag Officer (Overseas)

"This year on the 6th June the Canadian Y.M.C.A. justly rejoices in commemorating the centenary of its founding. I would like to add my congratulations and sincere thanks for the work of this splendid organization on behalf of all Canadian personnel on active service and especially those serving outside their own country in this war.

It is impossible to say what branch of your work is the most important—for all fields of endeavour are essential. The welfare of our Canadians now prisoners of war in German hands depends to a very great extent upon the service of the Y.M.C.A., and these obligations which you have freely accepted are discharged with great efficiency.

Besides this work for our fellow citizens who are not in a position to help themselves, there are nearly 2,000 Y.M.C.A. centres of all descriptions for the use of many times that number of our men whether they are in the Navy, Army or Air Force. These centres supply a vital need throughout the European Theatre of war. This means quite literally that wherever there is a concentration of Canadians on this side of the ocean they are within easy striking distance of a Y.M.C.A. centre either stationary or mobile. This is a grand achievement.

I have seen with my own eyes the enormous value to my sailors of the service rendered by the Canadian Y.M.C.A. overseas. Can I say more?"

From the Prime Minister

"On the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Young Men's Christian Association, it affords me pleasure to extend my hearty congratulations to the Association, together with my best wishes for its continued success.

It is gratifying to note how the Association has developed through the past hundred years into a world-wide organization, combining Christian influence with social service and healthful physical recreation, for the building of a better manhood.

Today, at a time when the youth of the world is sorely tried, the Young Men's Christian Association is doing especially valuable work in the very practical way in which it promotes the ideal of Christian brotherhood."—*W. L. Mackenzie King.*

From Italy

Lieutenant General E. L. M. Burns, O.B.E., M.C., Canadian Corps Commander, Italy, cables, "Heartiest congratulations to Canadian Y.M.C.A. from all ranks Canadian Forces in Italy on occasion of Hundredth Anniversary. Your valuable work under difficult conditions, in providing recreation entertainment and relaxation for fighting troops is greatly appreciated by all ranks. Best wishes for the future".

From the Air Force

"Never, in a century of service, has the Y.M.C.A. made so praiseworthy a contribution as during this Second Great War. It is a pleasure on this occasion to formalize the unofficial expressions of gratitude which have come constantly from airmen stationed throughout the "Y" territory that ranges from Reykjavik to Cairo.

"Determined from the very outset to do whatever could be done, regardless of difficulty, you have steadily expanded your efforts in the intervening years. Our rapid overseas growth has forced upon you a number of new but welcomed responsibilities. After you had accepted charge of a certain territory in the United Kingdom, we established there a Royal Canadian Air Force Bomber Group that swelled the Canadian population by many thousands. The "Y" has taken in its effective stride the major task of supplying tangible comforts and intangible but vitally important morale to the men and women of that Group.

"New fields like this will continue to be entrusted to your capable hands. The "Y" was first into North Africa and has now accompanied our forces into Italy. You are serving Gibralter, where so many of our airmen are stationed, and are caring for their comrades in Iceland. By the time the anniversary is celebrated, a supervisor will be in another outpost—Azores. The advancing tide of Canada's contribution to the air war will, I am sure, necessitate further expansion of your services in the months to come.

"And so, for existent and future assistance I give you the thanks of the R.C.A.F. Overseas; for your leadership in major sports, for your assumption of responsibility for auxiliary services here and in more distant theatres; for your 'Canada Houses' that bring the homeland so close to our airmen. Accept our service's heartfelt congratulations on your birthday; may you continue to flourish and earn our gratitude."

L. S. Breadner, (Air Marshall)
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief,
R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters.

From the Boy Scouts' Association

This year, the Young Men's Christian Association, will mark its centenary, and the Boy Scouts' Association will join with a host of other admirers in extending most cordial congratulations and good wishes on this significant occasion.

The Y.M.C.A., has long been closely associated with Scouting. In many places it sponsors Troops and many Troops meet in Y.M.C.A. buildings. Back in the early days of Scouting a "Y" official brought back from England an enthusiasm for Scouting which was soon translated into action, and the "Y" had the privilege of introducing Scouting to many communities.

As a national movement concerned with the building of character and good citizenship, the Boy Scout Association is proud to have had this great international organization as one of its Godfathers in Canada; proud of the privilege of continuing to work with it; and proud to have the opportunity to extend warmest felicitations as it reaches the venerable age of one hundred years. Old though it may be in years of service, the Y.M.C.A. remains young, vigorous, and ever representative of the best that modern youth has to offer toward the building of a better world.

—Quoted from "The Scout Leader," April, 1944.

Canadian Y.M.C.A. Study

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

"The test of an institution is in what it does."

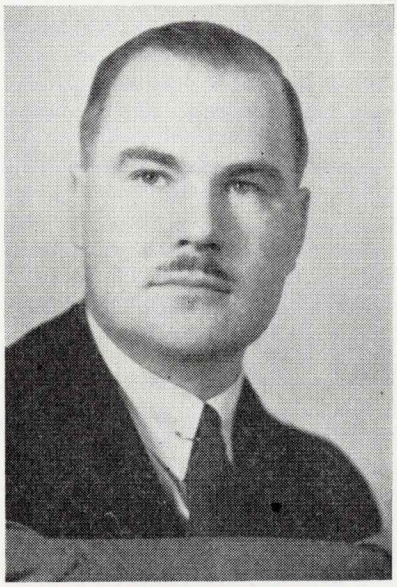
A far more effective criterion might be to say that the real test of an organization like the Y.M.C.A. is the way it celebrates its one hundredth anniversary. One might expect some arm-chair gloating over the completion of a century of high-grade and effective service to youth. But in the Y.M.C.A. today one finds few enjoying arm-chairs and a very large number of active people planning and working to improve the work of the Association.

One of the best illustrations of this fact is the way in which Y.M.C.A.s in Canada caught the idea and the spirit of the study of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. which is being sponsored by the Canadian Youth Commission and the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. This Study Committee has challenged local laymen and secretaries with formidable tasks. It has asked small committees in different parts of the country to take on studies of special problems which face the Y.M.C.A.; and it has asked every local Y.M.C.A. to conduct a study of its own operation. In spite of a multiplicity of other duties, the responses to these requests have been largely in the affirmative. "This is an important job; we'll do it." Truly, the Canadian Y.M.C.A. is in the hands of those "young in spirit."

With six weeks' work completed, this Committee is able to report:

(a) *Fourteen sub-committees at work on special problems.* The following problems are being studied by committees in those cities listed in brackets: (1) The Y.M.C.A. and Community Organization (Vancouver), (2) Programs for the Period of Demobilization (Edmonton), (3) Building and Equipment, (Winnipeg), (4) Program (Toronto), (5) Local Membership, Control, and Structure (Montreal), (6) Functions and Objectives (Ottawa), (7) Labour Relations (Brantford), (8) Government Relations (Ottawa), (9) Financing (Toronto), (10) National Council Organization (Montreal), (11) Church Relations (Halifax), (12) Extension Work, (13) Public Relations, and (14) Personnel (National Council Standing Committees).

Chairs Study



Dr. Ken Norris

(b) *Self-Studies underway in thirty-four Associations.* The following local Y.M.C.A.s have already indicated that they are ready to work on the Self-Study Guide provided by the National Committee: Charlottetown, London, Brandon, Lethbridge, Victoria, Montreal Central, Sudbury, Peterborough, Orillia, Quebec, St. Thomas, Winnipeg, Midland, Montreal Southwestern, Niagara Falls, Hamilton, Belleville, Toronto Northwestern, New Westminster, New Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, Sydney, Edmonton, Ottawa, Montreal North Branch, Fredericton, Galt, Toronto West End, Toronto Central, Kingston, Montreal N.D.G., St. Catharines, Toronto High Park, Toronto Broadview. Others have indicated that they will begin work on the study Guide in the near future.

(c) *Special papers and materials being prepared.* As background material for the sub-committees and for the whole Study, special papers are being prepared such as: "A Brief History of the Canadian Y.M.C.A." (Mr. Harry Ballantyne), "Social Trends in Canada in the Last Quarter-Century," "The Y.M.C.A. and Student Work," etc.

These are the major projects of the Study Committee to date. The hope is that out of this study and planning will come specific, realistic, and visionary objectives not only for each local Association but for the Movement as a whole in Canada.

Extension Committee Organized

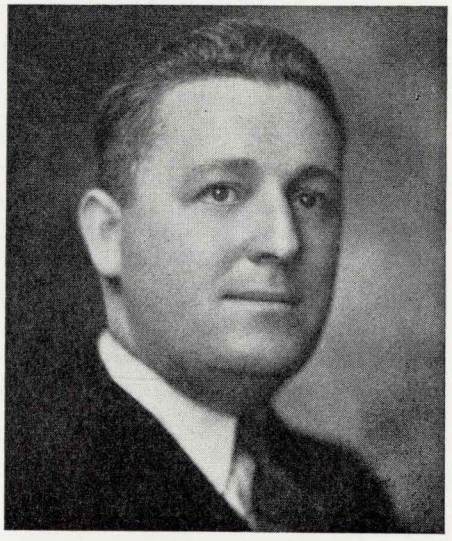
The Centennial year of the Y.M.C.A. sees a new Committee added to the National Council slate, the Extension Committee. Several meetings of the new committee have already been held. The major concerns of the Extension Committee at present are:

1. Helping the Canadian Y.M.C.A. Study Committee in developing a report on future extension of Y.M.C.A. work.,
2. Studying the major non-Y.M.C.A. communities in Canada and the steps that should be taken to extend our services to such centres.
3. Most effective way of obtaining financial support for the National work from non-Y.M.C.A. centres.

The Committee Members are:

J. W. Lawrence (chairman), A. H. Martin, F. W. Kendall, F. G. Stanley, E. H. Clarke of Toronto, Charlie M. Johnston of London, Ontario, V. G. Edwards of Midland, Ontario, and from the Y.M.C.A. National staff, R. S. Hosking, C. A. Schell, and Lavern Herbert.

Accepts U. of T. Appointment



Dr. Sidney E. Smith, Winnipeg, whose appointment as Executive Assistant to the President, and Principal of University College, University of Toronto, was recently announced.

Firsts —

The game of basketball was invented by a Canadian, Dr. Naismith, while a student at Springfield Y.M.C.A. College, and T. D. Patton, another Canadian, was one of the players on the first basketball team.

The Y.M.C.A. had a great deal to do in the invention and developing of the game of Volley Ball.

The Father and Son idea originated in the Young Men's Christian Association, and has become one of our contributions to the general community.

The idea behind all community drives and Victory Loan campaigns known as the "whirlwind campaign" was originated in the Young Men's Christian Association.

The Y.M.C.A. in Canada had a significant place in the introduction of the work of the Boy Scouts Association to the Canadian scene.

This World War Two is not the first occasion in which the Y.M.C.A. has served troops, but that our history goes back to the large and significant job done in World War One; to service to men in the first and second contingents of the Boer War; through service to men in military camps prior to that and back to the days of the Riel Rebellion in 1865.

Farm Service Camps, 1944

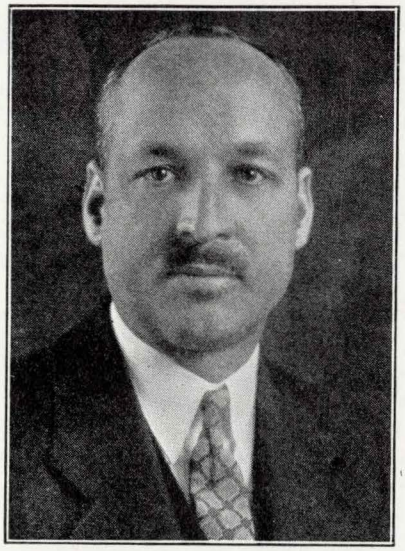
For the third successive year, the Boys' Department of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.s of Canada has assumed supervision for the Boys' Farm Service camps in Ontario. Camps are already open at Burlington, Leamington, Harrow and Holland Marsh, and there will be another camp to open in June at Blenheim and a second Harrow camp about the first of July.

Farm Service Force camps in Ontario are the responsibility of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and are a Provincial-Dominion project designed to alleviate the farm labour shortage which this year is more acute than ever. The Ontario Farm Service Force recruits its boys for the camps, and on their arrival at the camp site, the Y.M.C.A. takes over, and is responsible for recreation, discipline, and organization of the boys' farm camps and the National Council of the Y.W.C.A. does the catering.

In 1943, more than 800 boys were in the farm camps operated by the Y.M.C.A. and these boys put in over two hundred and twenty-six thousand hours of labour. Apart from the money the boys earned, they had the satisfaction of knowing they were doing a tangible war service and that through their efforts a great quantity of food was produced for the United Nations. They learned too what it means to be an employee, and a new appreciation of the place of the farm in Canadian life, and through their elected boys' council, gained experience in democratic behavior.

Most satisfying of all from the angle of the Y.M.C.A. was the fact that the boys gained a new concept of what the Young Men's Christian Association is and does—the concept that it is a Christian movement of and for youth.

Major J. W. Beaton Overseas Again



John W. Beaton, Senior Secretary, Canadian Y.M.C.A. War Services, has just returned from his fourth inspection trip overseas in connection with the far-flung work of the Association in Great Britain, Italy, Sicily and other points in the Mediterranean area.

The expansion of the Y.M.C.A. War Services in 1943 was one of the notable features of the work, and ANY TRANSCHANNEL INVASION OF THE CONTINENT WILL FIND THE STAFF OF THE Y.M.C.A. ATTACHED TO VARIOUS FORMATIONS, PROCEEDING TO THE NEW THEATRE OF WAR WITH THEIR UNITS. There are many matters of administration, questions of supply, personnel changes, and related questions which require the presence of Mr. Beaton overseas during the months that lie ahead.

1944 being the Centennial year of the Y.M.C.A., it is expected that in collaboration with the British Y.M.C.A. Mr. Beaton will lay plans for its observance in many Canadian Y.M.C.A. War Service centres overseas.

More Firsts —

The first Young Men's Christian Association was organized in London, England, on June 6th, 1844.

The first Y. M. C. A. in North America was organized in Montreal November 25th, 1851.

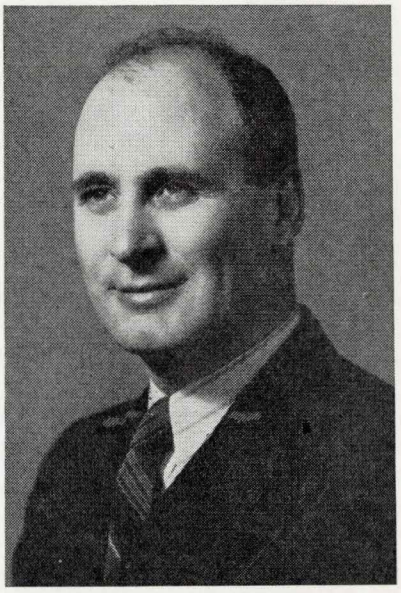
The first building erected solely for Y.M.C.A. work was built in Charlottetown, P.E.I., in 1872.

The first organized boys' work in Canada was begun by the Montreal and Toronto Y.M.C.A.'s in 1873.

The first organized boys' camping in North America was begun in the state of New York, and the first organized camp in Canada was conducted in 1889 at Chance Harbour, Nova Scotia.

The first foreign work secretary from the North American Y.M.C.A. was sent out in 1889.

At Beaver Club



A. W. Kemball, of Montreal, now manager of the Beaver Club, currently operated by our Y.M.C.A. War Services.

Cleveland Boys' Work Assembly

Canada was well represented at the Seventh North American Assembly on Y.M.C.A. Boys' Work, held in Cleveland.

The Boys' Work Assemblies of the North American Y.M.C.A. have in every instance been milestones in the progress of the Y.M.C.A. boys' work, from the first Assembly held in Culver in 1914 until this Seventh Assembly held in Cleveland in 1944. Each Assembly has brought into the life stem of Y.M.C.A. Boys' Work in North America, new and vital ideas.

It is a little bit too soon to completely appraise the value of the Cleveland Assembly, but out of it will certainly come better ways of using the fine experience we have accumulated in Y.M.C.A. boys' work over recent years. It is already quite evident that this Seventh Assembly will bring a renewed emphasis on lay leadershp in Y.M.C.A. boys' work. The importance of working with the small friendship groups, with leadership thoroughly trained and properly supervised has again been brought to sharp attention, and coupled with this is an even stronger emphasis on the necessity for Y.M.C.A. boys' work being done in full co-operation with the home and with the parent.

The Canadian group were responsible for the service of worship at the Assembly, and it was commonly agreed that they had made a significant contribution to the spiritual significance of this gathering. The Canadian delegation was composed of Gordon Hearn from Vancouver; Armour Bull, Edmonton; Charles D. Forsyth, Winnipeg; John Pearson, Arnold Ward, and Arthur Stinson of Toronto; Arnold Fraser, of Ottawa; I. R. Carlin and R. H. Hanagan of Montreal; and Nelson McEwen of the National Council staff.

This shot of a Canadian Y.M.C.A. War Services Supervisor, distributing chocolates and cigarettes overseas to men on Active service, has had a very wide circulation in the United States, having been used recently as a cover on the Army and Navy Bulletin issued and distributed to over 200,000 people in the United States.

T. D. Patton

To Duncan Patton lived an active, self sacrificial and supremely devoted life. His major interests were his church and the Young Men's Christian Association. He chose the latter for his professional career entering the service in 1888 and retiring in 1926, a period of 38 years. In his young manhood he participated as a soldier in the North West Rebellion of 1885.

While a student at Springfield College, he had the honor to play in the first game of basketball under the tutelage of Dr. Naismith, the inventor of the game.

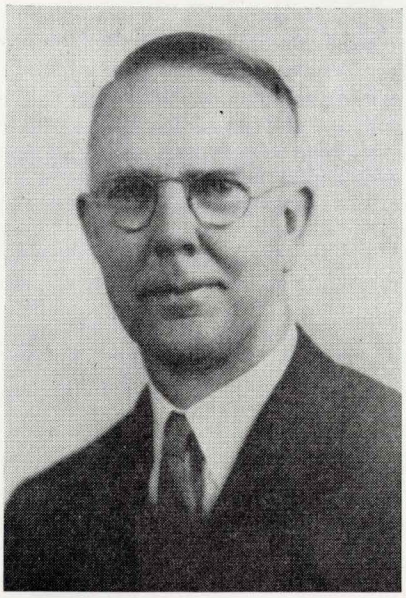
Mr. Patton's first Secretarial position was with the Montreal Association as Assistant Secretary. His next place of service was in Calcutta, India, in the Foreign Service of the Y.M.C.A. On his return he took the position of General Secretary at Winnipeg, Man. During the first Great War, Mr. Patton was appointed to supervise the War Work of the Y.M.C.A. in the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. At the conclusion of the war, he assumed a position as a Field Secretary of the National Council Y.M.C.A. for Manitoba and Saskatchewan and in the early 1920's he came to the Ontario and Quebec and Maritimes Headquarters, Toronto; remaining until his retirement in 1926.

The outstanding characteristics of Duncan Patton's life and work were those of courtesy, thoroughness, sympathy and friendliness, all of them practised consistently and constantly in relation to his duties and his personal contacts. He was regarded as a valued leader and counsellor in the Young Men's Christian Association and was assiduous in promoting its interests in local, national and international aspects. He lived a singularly devout life and influenced older and younger men in the Y.M.C.A. and many boys.

When he retired from official active service he went right on serving both in the Y.M.C.A. and in his church. For a number of years he was identified with activities designed to help the unemployed.

He has gone, but his personality and work will ever live in the hearts and minds of his many friends.

J. C. Oliver Repatriated



Repatriated from a Japanese internment camp last December, J. C. Oliver, Y.M.C.A. World Service Secretary in China for almost three decades, spent several days in Canada recently.

During the 14 months after Pearl Harbor before he and his wife were interned, Mr. Oliver was allowed comparative freedom and remained in charge of the Shanghai Y.M.C.A. "Our membership shot up from 4,000 to 8,000", he said, "for the Y.M.C.A. was one of the few places in the city where the Chinese could go to relax or talk with their friends."

"Only certain activities were permitted, and with a Japanese official in and out of the building all the time, it was extremely difficult to carry on. Discussion groups were out, and all large meetings forbidden. Only sports allowed were basketball, swimming and gymnastics."

Chinese secretaries still carrying on are making tremendous personal sacrifices, Mr. Oliver said. They are among the white collar workers whose wages have not increased with the rising cost of living, and are much worse off financially than rickshaw men and artisans.

He told of four members of the Shanghai Y.M.C.A. Board, all prominent Chinese businessmen, who were taken by the Japanese to the famous Bridge House for torture. Because of their affiliations with the Y.M.C.A. they were later released.

Of the 23 Y.M.C.A.'s in China before the Japanese occupation, only five are now functioning, he said. "My plan is to go back to Free China this fall to take part in the rehabilitation of many of these Associations as the Japanese are driven out. I would like to take a number of assistants with me from both Canada and the United States."

Although there were some atrocities in Shanghai, they were not as wide-spread or of the same type as in areas where the Japanese met fierce resistance, said Mr. Oliver.

He was openly sceptical of the Japenese East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere plan, and felt it could not be successful because of inability of the Japanese to make friends.

Interned with 1,100 men, women and children in a camp consisting of two Chinese university buildings, this Secretary considered himself fortunate to have lost only thirty pounds. He said most occidentals lost 50 pounds, and one man had lost 100. Food served in camp was not lacking in quantity but in nourishing qualities.

A Revised Swimming Manual

A partial revision of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. program of tests in swimming and life saving is now in the hands of the printer and will be ready for distribution at the time of the National Centennial Observance.

The National Swimming Committee of the Y.M.C.A. is using the necessity for reprinting the swimming manual to make some improvements which will be very welcome, although a thorough-going recasting of the whole program has not been undertaken at this time. The Y.M.C.A. would prefer to co-operate with other swimming organizations in the reorganization of swimming and life saving standards for all Canada.

Some minor changes have been made in the Life Saving techniques but more important by far are the improvements in the program as a whole which have been effected through a re-arrangement of the Life-Saving tests and the institution of two new recognitions and awards—Life Saving Instructor and Swimming Instructor.

The re-arrangement of Life Saving tests prescribes the order in which the tests must be taken and provides for them all in one examination session. Water demonstrations and land demonstrations are alternated so that all tests can be completed in one period without undue strain on the candidates. It is significant to notice that the fundamental approaches and carries are to be done as the first part of the examination, thus candidates unable to qualify on the most important tests will not be carried further in the examinations, which will save time for instructors and candidates alike.

Another significant change from the former requirements is the choice of carries now permitted. This will make it possible for a candidate to qualify by using methods of towing in which he is strongest, rather than being required to qualify on a wide spread of towing methods, some of which may not suit his physique or swimming ability.

Since their introduction in 1937, the Y.M.C.A. Intermediate Level Tests have been growing steadily. It is significant to find that over 70,000 award cards have been purchased by the Y.M.C.A.s across the country from the National Council office. The new swimming test manual will contain a complete description of the Intermediate tests which has not previously appeared in printed form.

The new instructor recognitions are designed to encourage the development of volunteer teachers of Life Saving and Swimming as soon as swimmers qualify at the Life Saver or Master Swimmer levels. Previously, candidates qualifying for Master Swimmer or Master Life Saver have been required to give only a stated number of hours service in swimming instruction or supervision. The requirements still retain coaching but the nature of the work to be done is now made specific in terms of instruction and qualifying swimmers in advanced swimming and life saving regardless of the number of hours involved. To attain the Life Saving Instructor's award a candidate must qualify ten Life Savers trained entirely by himself. The swimming Instructor award is more difficult. It requires the candidate to develop Beginners, Swimmers, and Advanced Swimmers on a specific basis with sufficient latitude to accommodate a candidate working in almost any kind of local swimming program.

Great Boy Leader Passes

The passing of Abel J. Gregg, Senior Secretary for Boys' Work in the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.'s of the United States, is a loss not only to that movement but also to the whole Y.M.C.A. Boys' Work movement throughout the world. Here in Canada we shall miss an influence which has had a real share in shaping our boys' work thinking. During the infrequent occasions on which Abel visited the Canadian Y.M.C.A., he made a very deep impression. Through the medium of the Boys' Work Assemblies he has had a close and powerful influence on the whole North American Y.M.C.A. boys' work.

Abel Gregg's winsome disposition, his sense of humor, his ability to do clear thinking, his statesman-like outlook, and his capacity to secure the cooperation of others made him a distinguished national leader. His indomitable courage and his deep Christian faith which were never more in evidence than during his illness, were an inspiration to those who came in contact with him. We shall miss him sorely, but he is not dead. He has built himself so thoroughly into the boys' work of the Y.M.C.A. and into the lives of his friends that he lives on. The National Boys' Work Committee of Canada shares in the deep sense of loss which has come to the National Boys' Work Committee of the United States.

The Canadian Y.M.C.A. Boys' Work is richer because Abel Gregg lived. We are thankful for that life, and we hope that much it stood for will continue to have a place in our boys' work in Canada.

"Y" Helps War Prisoners Retain Peace-Time Skills

Not the least of the benefits of the leisure-time activities fostered in the prison camps by War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A. are the opportunities they afford for many prisoners to practice their professions or callings. Thus former teachers are found instructing in the camp "universities," former librarians often are in charge of camp libraries, those who were physical instructors and coaches supervise sports and calisthenics, and musicians keep in practice by playing in camp orchestras. Some, however, find in prison camp life little if any scope for their professional talents. Such was the case with three widely-known Yugoslav specialists in a camp in Germany, who made a fervent appeal to a visiting Y.M.C.A. delegate for specialized literature.

"If I cannot get books, I'll forget my subject," said one, a gynecologist.

The books are being supplied.

At one prison camp in Germany, a visiting Y.M.C.A. delegate reported, a "family study circle" meets each Monday under the leadership of Catholic and Protestant chaplains, who cooperate in this work. Any prisoner can join and can ask individual questions concerning social ethics, particularly sex, marriage and family life, and educational questions. Sometimes prisoners give their own answers; sometimes one of the chaplains replies.

These discussions have helped many men to share their cares and anxieties upon the atmosphere of the whole camp, the delegates asserted. He arranged for books to be sent from Geneva as a conribution to the library used as reference material for these discussions.

Human Relations Institute

The Institue of Human Relations, which has evolved from the former annual Secretaries' Conference to include teachers and social workers as well as Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. Secretaries, will be held this year from August 28th to September 4th at Geneva Park, Lake Couchiching.

For this Centennial year, a group of outstanding speakers has been secured. Dr. Kurt Lewin of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station, State University of Iowa, recognized as a leader in social psychology, will be the main lecturer. He will lead the general session from 9 to 10 each morning in a lecture-discussion on "Some of the Laws of Social Behaviour, with special reference to the Older Adolescent and Young Person."

Following this first morning session, there will be a two-hour period given over to five discussion groups. Leading the group on "Individual Counselling with Youth" will be Mrs. Margaret Davis, Welfare Council of Toronto, and Dr. John Long, Ontario College of Education. The Group Workers' Workshop section will have as its leader Miss Gladys Ryland, School of Applied Social Sciences, University of Pittsburgh. Miss Bessie Touzel, Executive Secretary of the Welfare Council of Toronto, will lead the group giving attention to the question of "Security for the People," and the group on "Community Organization and Interpretation" will be led by Mrs. Margaret Meeks, Director of Recreation for the State of Oklahoma, and Advisor and Community Organizer for the F.P.H.A. The leader is yet to be announced for the group dealing with "Major Social Issues."

In view of the fact that many will be using part of their holiday time to attend the Institute, the afternoons will again be left free for recreation.

The evenings, from 7.30 to 9.30 will be devoted to a general session, centered on the theme, "The Community at Work," and will consist of a series of talks, round table and panel discussions, developing from, and conducted by, the five morning groups.

Personnel Changes

New Men

Evesron, Clifford, Boys' Work Sec'y, Saskatoon, Mar. 2, 1944.

Transfers

Lunn, John J., War Service to Gen., Quebec, April 1, 1944.

Meikle, J. L., War Services to Gen., London, May 1, 1944.

Rumball, H. S., D.I.L., Brownsburg, to D.I.L., Ajax, Feb. 15, 1944.

Spearman, W. H., War Service to Exec. Montreal Westmount.

Taylor, E. I., Exec. Montreal Westmount to Exec., Montreal International.

Wilson, E. A., Phys., Halifax to Phys. Chicago, April 15, 1944.

Resignations

Brace, A. J., World Service National Council, retired, January 1, 1944.

McPhail, Donald, War Services to Maritime Religious Education Council, March 1, 1944.

Morris, G. H., War Service, to Business, April 15, 1944.

Certified as Qualified Secretary

J. Roy Holmes, Physical Director, Vancouver.

Published under Certificate of Exemption No. 406
W.P.T.B. Order No. 223.

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